



# CONSTELLATION

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District  
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## Mueller accepts command of District



*(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)*

**(From left to right) Col. Robert J. Davis, outgoing District commander; Jim Jones, deputy district engineer for programs and project management; Maj. Gen. William T. Grisoli, commander of the North Atlantic Division; and Col. Peter W. Mueller, incoming District commander; stand at attention as they wait to pass the District's organizational colors. Mueller assumed command of the Baltimore District during a ceremony at the Wyndam Hotel in Baltimore July 14.**

**By Chanel S. Weaver**  
Public Affairs Office

Col. Peter W. Mueller assumed command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, during a traditional military change of command ceremony July

14 at 10 a.m. at the Wyndham Baltimore Inner Harbor Hotel.

Nearly 700 people — including dignitaries, family, friends and District employees — attended the ceremony where Maj. Gen. William T. Grisoli, commander of the North Atlantic Division, USACE, passed the  
*(continued on page 6)*

**In  
this  
issue:**

Levees protect Pa. town



Page 4

Jennings Randolph Lake wins award



Page 10



U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Baltimore District

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## Commander's Comment

### *Honored to Serve*

**By Col. Peter W. Mueller**  
Commander and District Engineer

The first message I want to pass on to the District Team, on behalf of the whole Mueller Family, is thank you! Thank you for the tremendous welcome at the change of command ceremony and receptions, thank you for the superb manner in which you have introduced me to our mission, and thank you for your service to our Nation. The Baltimore District has a tremendous reputation throughout the Army and the region and I have been impressed with the passion, pride and professionalism you have exhibited throughout this transition period.

I sincerely appreciate all that Col. Bob Davis did for the District and the Army throughout his tour here. He was instrumental in facilitating a smooth change of command and worked selflessly to assist me in my transition into this great organization. Suzanne and I join all of you in wishing him, Cecile and their family all the best in their new adventure.

As I noted at the change of command, I have experienced first hand the important impact of the Baltimore District's mission on its customers. I entered the service as a new recruit passing through the Baltimore recruitment station in 1982. I have been stationed at Fort Belvoir as a lieutenant and captain and as a staff officer assigned to the Pentagon in the Military District of

Washington. I coordinated with past Baltimore commanders on project matters while serving as a district commander in another division. I visited the Baltimore Harbor as a War College student studying the transportation industry and I was traveling through the Susquehanna River Basin on a family vacation during the June 2006 floods. In the months ahead, I will come to better understand our mission and the roles each of you play in achieving our objectives.

In order to assist you in getting to know me, I published my personal philosophy of command. Its purpose is to 'jumpstart' our relationship and to serve as a contract to help set expectations. My expectations are that we must:

- **Accomplish Our Mission**
- **Take Care of Our People**
- **Do What's Right...Always Do Our Best**
- **Have Fun!**

I am honored to be serving with this team, and I look forward to working with each of you as we strive to accomplish our critical mission: serving the Nation through military construction, water resources and infrastructure development, environmental efforts, disaster recovery assistance and direct support to the war fight - exhibited by so many members of our team who have served or are currently serving so selflessly in Iraq and Afghanistan. I am proud to have this assignment and I pledge to do my very best to serve the members and customers of the Baltimore District as the 64th District Commander.

— Essayons

# Off becomes deputy for support operations

Story and photo  
by **Christopher Augsburger**  
Public Affairs Office

Maj. Andy B. Off transitioned into the Executive Office of the City Crescent Building as the new Deputy District Engineer for Support Operations in June, after a one-year assignment as the site operations officer at the Spring Valley formerly used defense site. While his time at Spring Valley was not his first exposure to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, it did serve as his introduction to a Corps district. Off's previous Corps experience was August 2004 through August 2005, when he was assigned as a forward deployed project engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Programs Center in the Middle East.

Working at the district level has presented a different set of challenges than his previous assignments, Off said. Along with the challenges of helping to lead a mostly civilian workforce, he's also learning to adjust to the breadth of work the District holds outside traditional military missions. With that varied workload, said Off, comes new ways of completing assignments, such as partnering with other agencies and community leaders. Spring Valley, he said, showed him first hand the value that strong relationships between the Corps and their partners can have on a project.

"I never quite realized how important partnership was in the

government until I came to the District," said Off. "The Corps is an integral part of the government."

Unlike his previous, more typical military assignments with engineer battalions and divisions in Korea, Kentucky and Texas, the District workload has also provided lessons in the government process, providing him the necessary tools that may one day benefit him as a district commander.

"The Corps mission offers a much broader scope with a more direct impact to civilian life," said Off.

In addition to learning the business processes of the District, Off is

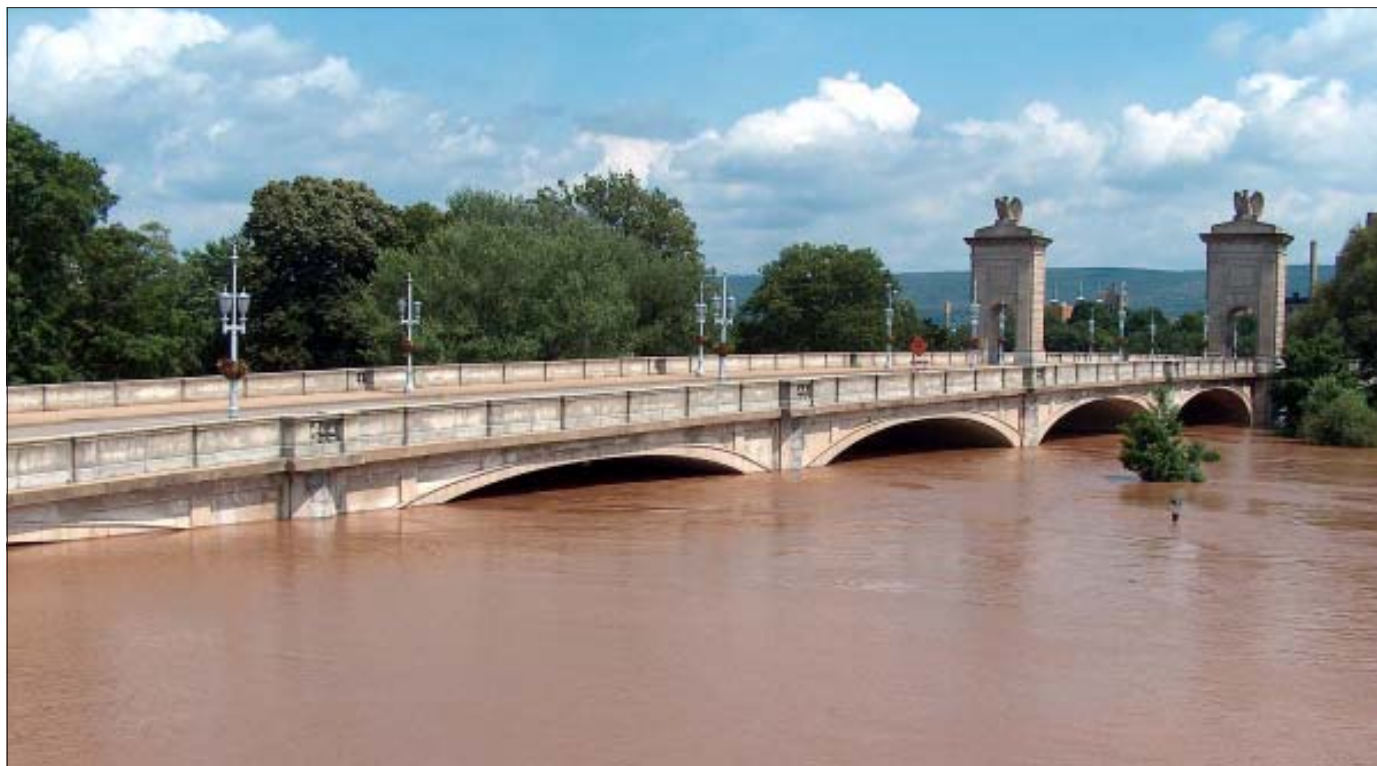
learning how to interact with the civilian world, both in the District and among other agencies.

Off grew up in West Chester, Pa., and graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1995. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from West Point; a Master of Science degree in engineering management from the University of Missouri at Rolla; and a Master of Science degree in civil engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

He and his wife, Kathy, have two children — Teddy and JT.



**Maj. Andy B. Off talks to Jeff Smith, Baltimore District's government affairs officer. Off became the new Deputy District Engineer for Support Operations in June.**



(Photo by Christopher Augsburger, Public Affairs)

The Susquehanna River crests at the Market Street Bridge in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. City officials ordered mandatory evacuations after predictions that the river would rise to heights not seen since Hurricane Agnes in 1972.

## Levees hold back the Susquehanna

**By Christopher Augsburger**  
Public Affairs Office

As the Susquehanna River at Wyoming Valley in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., reached near-record heights on June 28, the levee system built by Baltimore District did exactly what it was designed to do: it held.

Consecutive days of heavy rain and thunderstorms up and down the Susquehanna River basin, stretching from New York to Maryland, caused record water levels at Baltimore District flood reduction projects throughout the region, as well as localized flooding in most low-lying areas, according to Julie Fritz, a hydraulic engineer with the District.

The dams at Aylesworth, Pa.; East

Sidney, N.Y.; and Whitney Point, N.Y.; all experienced record or near-record pool levels. For the first time in its 56-year life, the dam at East Sidney achieved spillway flow – a condition that occurs when water reaches the top of the dam and needs to be redirected into a separate area. Levee and floodwall systems in New York and Pennsylvania also saw record and near-record water levels.

At the Wyoming Valley levee system in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., where Baltimore District recently spent approximately \$200 million to raise the levee system, the project functioned as designed.

“That \$200 million saved us a billion dollars today,” said County Commissioner Todd Vonderheid at a news conference on June 29, the day after the river crested.

Baltimore District completed construction in 2003 that raised the height of the levees to prevent against an Agnes-level flooding disaster. The river reached 41 feet in the aftermath of Hurricane Agnes in 1972, resulting in \$1 billion in damage. The next highest level came in 1975, when the river rose to 35 feet.

“The project performed near flawlessly during the flood event,” said project manager Janet Harrington. Other than a broken relief well and some seepage, levee patrol teams did not identify any crucial issues, according to Harrington.

With forecasts calling for the river to rise within one foot of the elevation reached in 1972, the Luzerne County commissioners ordered a mandatory

*(continued on page 5)*

## Susquehanna (continued from page 4)

evacuation. On June 28, approximately 175,000 residents were evacuated from portions of 14 communities that experienced flooding in the Agnes aftermath. County officials also instituted a 9 p.m. curfew.

As it turned out, the river crested at 6 p.m. on June 28 at over 34 feet, falling short of predictions from the National Weather Service. As a result, County Commissioner Chairman Greg Skrepenak announced at an early morning press conference June 29 that he was lifting the evacuation order and allowing people in areas protected by the levees to return home.

The performance of the levees stood as a focal point in the aftermath of the storms.

"Our citizens can feel safe and secure thanks to the work of the Army Corps of Engineers," said Wilkes-Barre Mayor Tom Loughton.

"We owe them a debt of grati-

tude," said Skrepenak.

While the river rose, crested and remained above the flood stage of 22 feet, Baltimore District engineers performed levee patrols, walking the levees and examining the flood walls and pump stations to ensure proper performance. They also worked in partnership with state and local officials to provide technical assistance and support.

The Wyoming Valley levee system in Pennsylvania consists of four contiguous federal flood control projects at Plymouth, Kingston-Edwardsville, Swoyersville-Forty Fort and Wilkes-Barre and Hanover Township, which together function as one large flood control system. The levees extend for approximately 15 miles with 21 pump stations beside the levees – 13 storm water pumps and 8 sanitary pumps.

The four federal flood control projects in the Wyoming Valley were originally



(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)

**East Sidney Dam in New York achieves spillway flow for the first time in its 56-year life. Baltimore District flood reduction projects in south central New York and northeastern Pennsylvania all experienced record or near-record water levels.**

designed to protect against a flood equal to a March 1936 event, which had a peak flow of 232,000 cubic feet per second. After the existing projects were overtopped by several feet in 1972's Tropical Storm Agnes, the levee raising project was designed to avoid a recurrence of this tragedy. The modifications included raising existing levees and floodwalls between 3 and 5 feet, modifying closure structures, relocating utilities and providing some new floodwalls and levees to maintain the integrity of the flood control system. The District also modified mechanical, electrical and structural elements of 13 storm water pump stations.

The flooding event in June was the fifth storm of record for the Wyoming Valley levee system. The other four include remnants of hurricanes Agnes in 1972, Eloise in 1975, Ivan in 2004 and the snow melt of January 2006.

Through September 2005, the levee system has prevented a total \$2.27 billion in damages. Preliminary numbers show that the Wyoming Levee System prevented \$425 million in damages during the June 2006 flood event.



(Photo by Christopher Augsburger, Public Affairs)

**Baltimore District's Resident Engineer Jim Moore receives sandbags from county volunteers to help repair a damaged levee relief well discovered during a levee patrol. These patrols provided constant inspections of the levee, floodwalls and pumping stations while the river height remained above the 22-foot flood level.**

## **Change of command**

(continued from cover)

organizational colors to Mueller — symbolizing the transfer of leadership from Col. Robert J. Davis, who commanded Baltimore District for the past three years.

“Change of command ceremonies are significant events in history,” said Grisoli. “Great commanders take a unit to the next level.”

As the 64th Baltimore District commander and district engineer, Mueller will oversee engineering, construction and real estate activities for the Army, Air Force and other Defense activities in the District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, southern New York and northern Virginia. He also is responsible for water resources development activities within the upper Chesapeake Bay

watershed, which includes a six-state area and the District of Columbia.

Mueller comes to Baltimore after attending the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C., where he graduated in June with a Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy.

He said he is proud to be on the “relevant, ready, responsive and reliable” Baltimore District team.

“I look forward to working with each of you as we strive to accomplish our critical missions,” said Mueller. “I am proud and honored to receive this assignment.”

Mueller’s major command and staff experience includes assignments as the Engineer Colonel’s Assignment Officer at U.S. Army Human Resources Command, Alexandria, Va.;

Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District, in South Carolina; Military Assistant to the Under Secretary of the Army, Congressional Staff Officer in the Pentagon and Army Congressional Fellow on Capitol Hill.

Other assignments include service in the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky.; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, N.C.; 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) Fort Stewart, Ga., and Saudi Arabia; and the 1st Infantry Division (Forward) in Germany.

Mueller is a 1983 graduate of Army Officer Candidate School, Fort Benning, Ga., and he holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of



*(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)*

**Rep. Wayne T. Gilchrest of Maryland's first congressional district speaks during the ceremony.**



*(Photo by Christopher Augsburger, Public Affairs)*

**Col. Peter W. Mueller and his wife, Suzanne (left), chat with Chris Correale (center), chief of Operations Division, and Walt Washington Jr., chief of the Maryland Section Southern in Regulatory Branch. Mueller hosted a reception after the Change of Command ceremony to meet members of the Baltimore District team.**

Utah and a Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Although the ceremony officially welcomed the new Baltimore District commander, it also provided an opportunity to thank Davis, the outgoing commander, for his service to Baltimore District.

Many of the speakers commended Davis on his leadership of the District.

“Bob cared to make a difference, and he cared to do the right thing,” said Grisoli. “This country will always be grateful for his service.”

After relinquishing command of the Baltimore District, Davis will retire with 26 years of military service.



(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)

Among the distinguished guests who attended the Change of Command ceremony were (from left to right) Sen. Paul Sarbanes, Rep. Wayne Gilchrest and Rep. Roscoe Bartlett.



(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)

The Joint Military Color Guard from the Defense Information School at Fort Meade, Md., prepare to present the colors.



(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)

Maj. Gen. William T. Grisoli, commander of the North Atlantic Division, presents a certificate of retirement to Col. Robert J. Davis, the outgoing Baltimore District commander, as Davis's wife, Cecile, looks on.

# Army Civilian Corps established

Top Army leaders announced the establishment of the Army Civilian Corps in June.

“The Army Civilian Corps is meant to unify the Army civilian service and embody the commitment of civilians who serve as an integral part of our Army team,” said Army Secretary Francis J. Harvey and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker in a joint memorandum to Army personnel.

Army Civilians work side-by-side with Soldiers deployed around the world. They have played many roles in America’s fight against terror, from assisting in reconstruction projects in Iraq and Afghanistan to training Soldiers for deployment.

“The Corps provides identity for the civilian force comparable to their military counterparts – the officer, enlisted and NCO Corps,” said Melinda McMillon Darby, assistant G-1 for civilian personnel, in an interview with Army News Service July 12.

The Army Civilian Corps Creed and the memorandum establishing the Corps are available at the civilian personnel Web site at [www.cpol.army.mil](http://www.cpol.army.mil) under “Top Army Initiatives.”

Establishment of the Civilian Corps is a result of a study conducted by the Army Training and Leadership Development Panel from August 2001 to February 2003. Through written and online surveys with Civilians, focus-group sessions and personal interviews, an executive panel comprised of senior civilian and military subject matter experts concluded the needs and concerns of Army Civilians.

Jim Jones, deputy district engineer for programs and project

## Army Civilian Corps Creed



- I am an Army Civilian – a member of the Army Team
- I am dedicated to our Army, our Soldiers and Civilians
- I will always support the mission
- I provide stability and continuity during war and peace
- I support and defend the Constitution of the United States and consider it an honor to serve our Nation and our Army
- I live the Army values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage
- I am an Army Civilian

management and senior civilian for Baltimore District, said Army Civilians play an important role.

“Since the earliest days of my career, it was apparent to me that it was the dedicated civilian workforce that formed the fabric of the Corps of Engineers,” said Jones.

“There was always something more powerful than money that brought them to the office every day, and it went beyond the pride of being a dedicated public servant. It is gratifying to know that the Army is recognizing Civilians for their integral role in supporting our nation in peace and at war.”

*Editor’s Note: Information for this article was compiled from the Army News Service.*

## Quick Poll: What do you enjoy most about working for the Army?



**Cori Brown**  
Operations Division

*“We have a very generous benefits package compared to the private sector. I appreciate the job security we have.”*



**Greg Crizer**  
Engineering Division

*“I like having a role in supporting the Army and meeting the Nation’s goals and needs. The mix of personalities and ages keeps the environment lively and interesting.”*



**Jodelle Ferguson**  
Contracting Division

*“It is rewarding to me to see a product start as a mere acquisition plan and see that product come to fruition. Knowing that this product ultimately helps in some way or other, support our troops here at home and/or overseas is rewarding.”*

# Protect yourself from heat-related injuries

Information provided by  
Safety and Occupational Health Office

Summer days are long, hot and humid. As the temperature continues to rise, so does the chance of increased dangers of heat-related injuries.

Heat injuries include a range of disorders that result when one's body is exposed to more heat than it can handle. The human body is constantly engaged in a life-and-death struggle to disperse the heat that it produces. If allowed to accumulate, the heat would quickly increase your body temperature beyond its comfortable 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit.

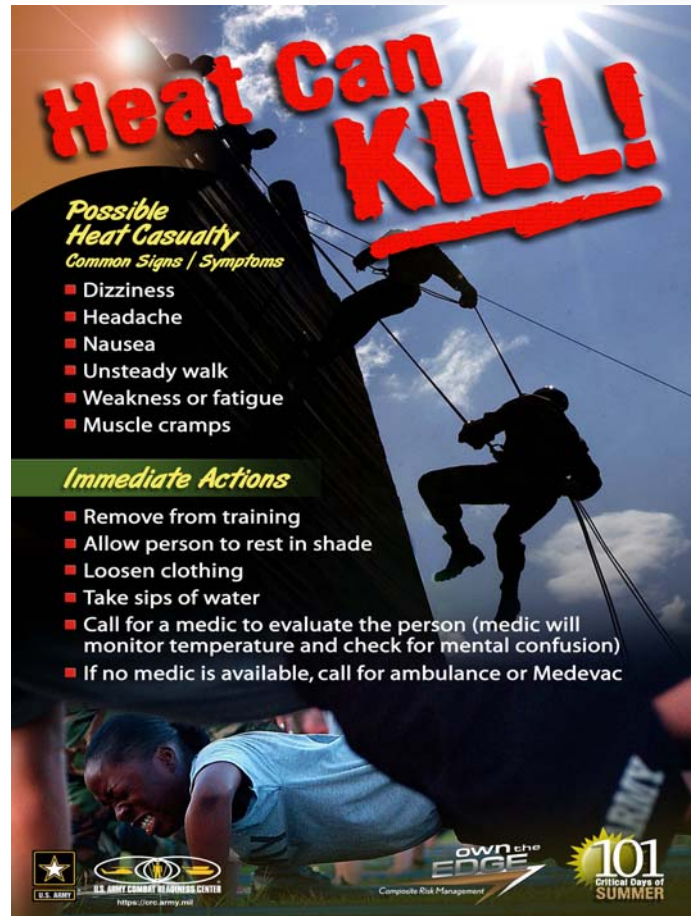
Heat-related illness can affect anyone not used to hot weather, especially when it's combined with high humidity. Those especially at risk are:

- Infants, young children, elderly and pets
- Individuals with heart or circulatory problems or other long-term illness
- Employees working in the heat
- Athletes and people who like to exercise
- Individuals taking certain medications that alter sweat production
- Alcoholics and drug abusers

Heat injuries are cumulative, meaning they begin minor and lead to more serious conditions as time and exposure increase.

Heat-related illnesses begin with *heat cramps* — painful muscular spasms that suddenly affect legs or abdominal muscles. They usually occur after physical activity in people who sweat a lot or have not had enough fluids.

From heat cramps, *heat exhaustion* is usually the next step. Heat exhaustion is characterized by heavy perspiration with normal or slightly above normal body temperatures. It usually affects workers and athletes who do not drink enough fluids while working or exercising in hot environments. The most serious and life-threatening heat-related illness is *heatstroke*. In certain circumstances, the body can build up too much heat and one's temperature may rise to life-threatening levels. One may also become delirious or lose consciousness. If one does not rid the body of excess heat



fast enough, the heat cooks the brain and other vital organs. It is often fatal, and those who do survive may have permanent damage to their vital organs.

Taking a drink of water may be too little too late. Simply drinking water may not be enough.

Take these steps and be on the lookout for symptoms of heat-related illnesses.

## **To prevent a heat-related injury:**

- Stay out of direct sunlight. Sit or lie down in the shade. If you are planning outside activities, plan for frequent breaks and drink lots of water.
- Drink water, drink water, drink water! Not alcoholic beverages, punch or soda! You need water! Take a break about every 20 minutes and drink cool (not ice cold) water. (Sports drinks are acceptable as long as consumption doesn't cause stomach cramps.)
- Monitor each other for heat exhaustion. Be on the lookout for hot skin, altered mental status (ranging from slight confusion and disorientation to possible coma).
- Be prepared to call emergency medical services if an individual begins to show signs of severe exhaustion. It doesn't take long for heatstroke to develop.

## *Jennings Randolph Lake earns top honors*

For the third consecutive year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Robert W. Craig Campground at Jennings Randolph Lake has been selected by ReserveAmerica as one of America's "Top 100 Family Campgrounds" for 2006.

ReserveAmerica is North America's leading camping reservation provider servicing agencies such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service. Each year, they select America's Top Outdoor Locations in various categories for their prestigious Outdoor Recreation Award.

The "Top 100 Family Campgrounds" were selected based on criteria requested by family campers including park amenities, beautiful outdoor scenery and educational facilities. The criteria also included hot showers, laundry facilities, hiking trails, family beaches, radio free zones, visitor centers, educational programs, children's events and parks that are located within 100 miles of a metropolitan location. The Robert W. Craig Campground is also listed on the ReserveAmerica Web site as one of America's Hidden Gems.

"It's a real honor for the hard working staff to receive this award for three years running," said Jan Gonzales, the operations project manager. "We thank our campers and campground attendants for their positive comments and support."

In addition to its selection as a "Top 100 Family Campground," Jennings Randolph Lake also received two additional designations under the Reserve America's Top Outdoor Locations for 2006:

- **One of the Top 25 Fishing Spots** — The North Branch of the Potomac River tail waters at Jennings Randolph Lake has been selected by ReserveAmerica as one of America's "Top 25 Fishing Spots" for 2006.

- **One of the Top 15 Park Beaches** — The Shaw Beach at Jennings Randolph Lake was selected for its quality sand and water cleanliness of the beach.

Jennings Randolph Lake is situated in the scenic, rugged hills between Garrett County, Md., and Mineral County, W. Va. The lake covers 952 acres and provides excellent opportunities for fishing, swimming and water skiing. The



*(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo)*

**The staff of Jennings Randolph Lake celebrate their third consecutive year as one of America's "Top 100 Family Campgrounds."** Pictured above are (back row, left to right) Robbie Robinson, Emily Robinson, Linda Hatfield and Skeet Hatfield; and (front row, left to right) Bill Donnellan, Eric Risinger and Wendy Holliday.

campground offers 82 campsites, 70 with electric hook-up and 12 non-electric sites. Other amenities include hot showers, a playground, pay phone, dump station, hiking trails, amphitheater, camp store, a shelter, basketball court, horseshoe pits and a beach area. The campground is within one mile of the North Branch of the Potomac River, one of the finest trout fisheries on the East Coast.

### **On the Net:**

#### **Reserve America site:**

<http://www.reserveamerica.com/jsp/homepage.jsp?goto=/home/indextop.html>

#### **Jennings Randolph site:**

[www.nab.usace.army.mil/recreation/jenran.htm](http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/recreation/jenran.htm)

### **MANDATORY ETHICS TRAINING**

**Dates:** Aug. 3, 22 and 24; Sept. 7, 12, 14, 18, 26 and 28.

**Location:** EEOC Conference Room, Fourth Floor

**Time:** 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

*Contact Stephen Douglas at (410) 962-3385 for more information.*

# Brooks publishes second book

**By Chanel S. Weaver**  
Public Affairs Office

Steve Brooks, Baltimore District's library technician, has done it again.

In June, his second book — *The Raid II: Back to School* — was published.

Set in his hometown of Baltimore, *The Raid II: Back to School* is a fictional story about Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Agent Dave Hughes and his friend Jim Everette, who go undercover to learn who is selling handguns to school kids. The events in the novel touch many families, changing all of them forever.

"I got the idea for my second book from the Columbine High School massacre," said Brooks, referring to the shooting rampage in Littleton, Colo., where 12 students and one teacher were killed in April 1999.

Brooks said he has always enjoyed a passion for writing.

Although he enjoys writing, he knows



(Photo by Chanel S. Weaver, Public Affairs)

**Steve Brooks, Baltimore District's library technician, autographs a copy of his second book, *The Raid II: Back to School*. The sequel to his first novel was published in June.**

that being an author has its challenges.

"Nothing occurs in a vacuum," said Brooks. "Once you create a character, you have to create other characters to develop relationships. It's important to build relationships in a novel."

Brooks' experiences as an author are just beginning. He is currently working on writing some historical fiction.

He is determined to keep the creative juices flowing.

## Attention Electrical, Civil, Mechanical, Chemical and Structural Engineers!

The National Engineers' Week Future City Competition is looking for engineer mentors for seventh and eighth grade students in the Baltimore metropolitan area.

The goal of the organization is to foster academic achievement and personal growth of our Nation's middle-school level students through the context of engineering. The Competition challenges seventh and eighth grade students with a hands-on application to design and present a city of the future. The experience will:

- Foster engineering skills, such as teamwork, communication, and problem-solving skills
- Provide interaction between students, teachers, and engineer mentors
- Inform the community about the multi-disciplines within the engineering profession



- Inspire students to explore futuristic concepts and career opportunities in engineering

Rob Moyer, a former hydraulic engineer in Baltimore District, recently volunteered as a judge for the competition, and he said being involved with the competition was a worthwhile experience.

"When you serve, you're helping to define the future of our country by getting people interested in the engineering field," said Moyer.

Teams consist of an engineer mentor, a teacher, and students. They will produce a computerized design using the approved version of SimCity for the 2006-07 academic year, a team-made physical scale model with a budget limit of \$100, an essay on a design issue to be determined, and a verbal

presentation of the solution.

Baltimore District engineers who are interested in serving as a mentor to these students should contact Robert E. Moyer IV at (513) 684-3073.



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